GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:443
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
ACCOUNTABILITY ON RAIL ACCIDENTS
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that largest number of railway accidents took place during the tenure of 13th Lok Sabha, till date;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking action against the Administrators in the High Offices and onlysmall railway personnel have been punished;

(c) whether the Government are considering to have a Member of the Railway Board to exclusively look to prevent railway accidents having its counterparts in the Zonal and Divisional Railways and whether the accountability should also be fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) & (b): The number of consequential train accidents since October 1999 (13th Lok Sabha) till November 2003were 2126 as against 2196 during the preceding five year period of 1993-94 to 1997-98. However during the last three years, the number of consequential train accidents came down from 473 (during 2000-01) to 414 during the period 2001-02 and further to 351 (provisional figures) during the period 2002- 03. This is the lowest ever number of consequential train accidents on Indian Railways. Further, the number of consequential train accidents per million train kilometers, an internationally accepted benchmark of safety performance, now stands at 0.44, the lowest figure in the last 40 years.

There exists a system of fixing up of responsibility at appropriate levels as finalised in the inquiry reports.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.